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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
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HEADLINES

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- Hurriyet
Schroeder's Destiny in the Hands of 600,000 Turks - Aksam
The Arab League Supports Turkey's EU Bid - Milliyet
Zarkawi's Revenge: Suicide Attacks Kill 160 in Iraq - Aksam

OPINION MAKERS

Bush Conveys to Talabani Turkey's Unease with the PKK -
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Bush: I Warned Talabani against the PKK - Yeni Safak
Erdogan Asks Jewish Organizations' Support against Armenian
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Leaders Discuss Terror at UN 60th Summit - Zaman
60th Summit to Decide on the Fate of UN - Yeni Safak
'Turkish Style' Elections in Germany - Zaman
Majority of 600,000 Turks in Germany to Vote for Schroeder -
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Senator Biden in WP: Turkey May Fall into Iraq Swamp -
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Bush Admits Failure in Handling Hurricane Katrina -
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Karzai Calls on Taliban to Vote at General Elections - Zaman
US May Reduce Troops in Afghanistan in 2006 - Cumhuriyet
210 Captives Continue Hunger Strike at Gitmo - Yeni Safak
US 'Minuteman-3' Missile Test Successful - Cumhuriyet
Bin Ladin Seeks Medical Treatment - Radikal

BRIEFING

US Ships Military Equipment to Iraq through Iskenderun Port:
"Cumhuriyet" reports on its front page that in the first
seven months of the year, nine US vessels brought 4,046
military vehicles and 3,404 tons of explosives to Turkey's
east Mediterranean port of Iskenderun to be shipped to Iraq,
according to data by the Iskenderun Chamber of Commerce.
The US has been using Iskenderun port to ship munitions to
Iraq despite the fact that the Turkish parliament rejected a
motion for cooperation with the US in Iraq war, says the
report. A trade union member told "Cumhuriyet" that the US
was planning to use the port of Iskenderun as a 'naval base'
under the Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiative
(BMENAI).

US Thanks Turkey for Helping Hurricane Katrina Victims: US
Ankara Embassy Charge d'Affaires Nancy McEldowney thanked
the Turkish government and nation for the help provided for
the victims of Hurricane Katrina, "Radikal" reports.
McEldowney said at an American reception Wednesday that the
Turkish government made 2.5 million USD of aid for Katrina
victims, and that Turkish universities had offered four-year
scholarships to American students. 'Besides official aid,
we have been receiving letters from around Turkey. They not
only put money inside the envelopes, but write messages of
support that say 'The United States has done the same for
us.' Our ties with Turkey have gone beyond politics. We
are tied to each other from the heart; our endless thanks go
to Turkey,' McEldowney said.

Erdogan Meets Bush, World Leaders at UN Reception: Prime
Minister Erdogan and President Bush had a chance for a brief
talk during the reception hosted by the US President in
honor of world leaders attending the 60th UN Summit in New
York on Wednesday, Turkish papers report. Bush told Erdogan

that he had asked Iraq President Talabani to 'do something' against the PKK to ease the discomfort of Turks, adding that the US was aware of the security threat posed by the PKK against Turkey. Secretary Rice also said that Talabani had been told about Turkey's uneasiness over the PKK presence in northern Iraq. Erdogan expressed his 'profound sorrow' with regard to the loss of lives in Hurricane Katrina. Erdogan has not been pleased to see that Bush is shifting the responsibility of fighting against the PKK to Talabani, "Hurriyet" comments. The Turkish PM also chatted with the presidents of Pakistan, Georgia and Iran and the prime ministers of Denmark, Greece, Israel and the Netherlands. During his talk with the Israeli PM Sharon, Erdogan welcomed again Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. Sharon briefed Erdogan on the situation in the region and asked for Turkish help in rebuilding Gaza. Erdogan later met with Ahmedinajad and discussed Turkey's natural gas purchases from Iran and ways to increase bilateral trade with the Iranian President.

Turkey Pleased by Draft UN Summit Final Declaration: Turkey welcomed the draft joint communique to be issued at the end of the 60th UN Summit in New York, defining the guidelines of the road map of the UN for the coming years, diplomatic sources told the press. The draft declaration reflects the views of Turkey with regard to the fight against terrorism, saying that 'the UN strongly condemns terrorism, regardless of who committed it and where, which poses one the most serious threats against international peace and security.' It calls on all countries to refrain from supporting terrorist acts and to prevent terrorist groups from using their lands for their activities. Turkey was also pleased by the reference made in the draft to the 'Alliance of Civilizations' initiative cosponsored by Turkey and Spain as well as the support of the UNSG to the project, say papers.

Ankara Sends 'Intelligence Team' to Tal Afar: Ankara, with US approval, sent a 16-member 'intelligence team' to Tal Afar to investigate charges of mistreatment of the Turkmen by some Iraqi commanders, reports "Aksam." The Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay) took five trucks of food, medicine and tents to Tal Afar, and Ankara also wants to send a mobile hospital and kitchen and technical help to fix the water system in the city, says the report.

MFA Condemns Terrorist Attacks in Iraq: The Turkish Foreign Ministry Affairs said in a statement on Wednesday that over 100 were killed and nearly 200 were wounded in recent terrorist attacks in Iraq, stressing that Turkey strongly condemned the attacks. 'We offer our condolences to the Iraqi people, government and the relatives of those who died in the attacks,' the MFA said. The statement noted that terrorist attacks are aimed at inciting ethnic fighting in Iraq, adding that 'national cohesion' should be further strengthened to spoil the terrorists' goal.

Turkey-US Agree to Fight the PKK in Europe: Ankara has adopted a new strategy against the PKK after the visit of top US commanders to Turkey last week, "Sabah" reports, adding that from now on, Turkey will cooperate with Washington to combat the PKK in Europe instead of staging military operations against the terror organization in northern Iraq. During the visits to Ankara by DAS Matt Bryza in August and US Generals James Jones and Lance Smith last week, Americans told the Turks to use democratic means to fight the PKK and offered cooperation on the matter. Turkey and the US have agreed to cooperate to cut the financial support to the PKK coming from Europe, says "Sabah."

US Official on the PKK, Iraq, Tal Afar, US-Turkey: An unidentified high-level US official told "Radikal" columnist Murat Yetkin that Turkey's growing uneasiness with the PKK problem has been a source of concern for the US as well. Struggling against the PKK is not only Turkey's but the US and the new Iraqi government's business, the official said, adding that the stabilization of Iraq carries great importance in narrowing the opportunities for such terror activities. The American noted that both the US and Turkey were trying to control the problems that have arisen in the turmoil in Iraq. 'Turkey has been helping us in Iraq,' the official said, adding that the US expected this help to increase: 'Turkey can suggest to the Iraqi groups it is in contact with to go to the ballot box at the December elections and advise them to voice their objections and demands at political levels.' The US official added that Turkey can also suggest to Syria that it should stop the flow of money and insurgents to Iraq. 'Turkey should see that Syria is a destabilizing element with regard to Lebanon, the Israel-Palestine question and Iraq -- the three issues Turkey hopes to see stabilized,' the official stressed, emphasizing that US-Turkey relations are so important that they cannot be conducted on 'auto-pilot.' 'Our relationship needs constant care,' the American said, 'Therefore we think that mutual visits and dialogue should be increased.' On Tal Afar, the official made assurances that US military operations against the northern Iraqi city

had nothing to do with the Turkmen in the region. The official said that Turkish authorities had known about the operation since its beginning, and that press reports claiming the use of chemical weapons by US forces were false. 'Anti-American propaganda in the language of Zarkawi should not be allowed in the Turkish press,' the official stressed. Yetkin says that he had the impression that Washington believed that news and commentaries which appeared in the Islamist-oriented "Yeni Safak" daily echoed the inclinations of the ruling AK Party government.

Biden: Turkey May Fall into Iraq Swamp: "Cumhuriyet" quotes US Senator Joseph Biden (D) as saying in an op-ed in the "Washington Post" that sectarian violence might escalate into a civil war, drawing in Syria, Iran and Turkey and turning Iraq into a 'new Lebanon.' 'Even worse, Iraqi Sunnis could forge stronger alliances with foreign jihadists, turning a swath of Iraq into a pre-September 11 Afghanistan for a new generation of terrorists,' Biden said. He advised the US Administration to develop a regional strategy that 'either forces or induces' Iraq's neighbors to act responsibly. In some instances, that would require the administration to engage regimes that the US would rather not work with, according to Biden. Biden also noted that it is no longer acceptable to say that US troops will stay in Iraq 'as long as necessary.'

Gul Signs UN Protocol against Torture: Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul signed the 'Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture' during the 2005 World Summit in New York, papers report. Turkey has been a party to the Convention since 1988. The 'Optional Protocol' has been signed by 11 countries so far after it was released on February 4, 2003. It will go into effect after being approved by 20 countries. Turkey had earlier declared that it will follow a zero-tolerance policy against torture and maltreatment.

EU to Monitor Court Case against Pamuk: "Zaman" reports that the EU is preparing to monitor the court case against renowned Turkish novelist Orhan Pamuk for accusing Turks of killing one million Armenians and 30,000 Kurds. The European Parliament will set up a five-member committee to follow the developments related to the Pamuk case set to begin December 16, says the report.

EDITORIAL OPINION: United Nations

"Tremor at the UN Organization"
Zafer Atay commented in the economic-politic "Dunya" (9/15): "Unlike the glamorous celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the UN, this time the 60th anniversary was insignificant. One could not see the traditional attendees of such anniversary celebrations, such as President of the United States (sic). . The United Nations is going through very difficult times due to corruption claims regarding the oil-for-food program for Iraq and the scandals related to UN peacekeepers in several countries. Corruption claims are being investigated within the UN, as well as by France and the United States. Washington is also angry with the current UN administration because of its opposition to the Iraq war. Washington wants UN Secretary General Annan to resign. There will be a monetary sanction as well because the US administration plans to cut off its financial support for the UN unless satisfactory reforms within the organization are undertaken. On the other hand, in the name of fairness, we should not forget the positive achievements of the UN. The United Nations has made some very important contributions to peace, health, and education worldwide. The world owes its gratitude to the UN for eliminating diseases through vaccination programs and for providing food and shelter to refugees."

"The Summit of Divided Nations"
Deniz Ulke Aribogan opined in the mass appeal-sensational "Aksam" (9/15): "The United Nations served a very important purpose by bringing together nations to heal the wounds of two world wars. However, the structure of the organization was formed by the winners of the war, providing privileged veto status in the UN Security Council. Since the establishment of the UN up until the present, the privileged members did not see any harm in using the UN to legitimize their own policy priorities. The UN thus turned into an arena for power struggles among those members. The formation of the UN after the world war was meant to create a peaceful world, but unfortunately 60 million people have died because of political conflicts and wars in the 60 years of the post-war period. . Today the UN presents a picture of divided nations. Problems will continue in the world regardless of the number of international summits that are held as long as these divisions continue.."